

R E M A R K S

A Request for Continued Examination accompanies this paper to remove the finality of the pending Office Action and to obtain entry of the above-noted claim amendment.

Claims 5-8, 14, 20 and 25-36 are in the application, with Claim 5 having been amended. It is noted with appreciation that claims 14, 20 and 25-36 have been allowed. Claim 5 is the only pending independent claim that stands rejected, and is now presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the above-noted amendment thereto. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 5-8 are rejected as being anticipated by Smits et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,287,247 (“Smits”).

Claim 5, as now presented, is directed to an “apparatus” which includes “an integrated circuit (IC) die” and “a stack of at least three metal layers on a back surface of the IC die”. Claim 5 now specifies that the “three metal layers includ[e] a first layer formed of a first material, a second layer formed of a second material different from the first material and a third layer formed of a third material different from the first and second materials”. In addition, the apparatus of claim 5 includes “a heat spreader conductively coupled to the stack of metal layers” and “a bias signal source coupled to the heat spreader to supply a bias signal to the IC die via the stack of metal layers”.

In stating the pending rejection of claim 5, the Examiner posits that the “button 430” of the Smits reference may be deemed to have three layers (perhaps an almost infinite number of layers) of the same material. It was certainly not the applicants’ intention in reciting “three layers” that that phrase be considered to encompass three layers of the same material. In any case, as now clarifyingly amended, claim 5 clearly recites a stack of three metal layers each formed of a different material from the other layers. No such structure on the back surface of an

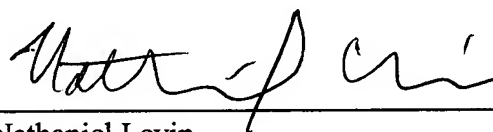
IC die is taught or suggested by the reference. Support for the claim amendment is found at page 3, lines 23-30 of the specification.

It is accordingly requested that the rejection of claim 5 be reconsidered and withdrawn. Claims 6-8 are submitted as patentable on the same basis as claim 5.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-3460.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

Nathaniel Levin
Registration No. 34,860
Buckley, Maschoff & Talwalkar LLC
Attorneys for Intel Corporation
Five Elm Street
New Canaan, CT 06840
(203) 972-3460